

Commission News

www.mswcc.ms.gov

680 Monroe Street, Suite B, Jackson, MS 39202

Tel. 601.354.7645

Fax. 601.354.6628

55 teams registered for March 21 Area Envirothon Competitions

Fifty-five teams have registered to compete in the area Envirothon Competitions on March 21, 2019.

All Area Competitions begin at 8 AM and will be held in the North, Delta, Central and South as follows:

North Area - University of Mississippi Field Station, 15 Co. Rd. 202, Abbeville. The nine North Area teams registered include: Ashland High School, Benton County CTC FFA Team A, Benton County CTC FFA Team B, Lafayette team, Oxford High School Team A, Oxford High School Team B, Southaven High School Team A, Southaven High School Team B, and Strayhorn High School FFA.

Central Area - Chautauqua Park, 23031 Hwy. 51, Crystal Springs. Fourteen teams are registered in the Central Area and include: Copiah Educational Foundation Team A, Copiah Educational Foundation Team B, Copiah Educational Foundation Team C, Copiah Educational Foundation Team D, East Rankin Team A, East Rankin Team B, East Rankin Team C, Forrest-Scott CTC FFA, Hillcrest Christian School Team A, Hillcrest Christian School Team B,

High School Team A, Pascagoula High School Team B, Pascagoula High School Team C, Perry FFA Team A, Perry FFA Team B, Poplarville FFA, Purvis High School FFA Team A and Purvis High School FFA Team B.

Delta Area - Delta Conservation Demonstration Center, 422 Feather Farms Rd., Metcalfe. The 15 teams registered in the Delta Area include: Bayou Academy Team A, Bayou Academy Team B, Bayou Academy Team C, Bayou

JPS Career Development Center FFA, Puckett FFA, Yazoo County High School and Yazoo County SWCD.

South Area—Vanceleave City Park, 5400 Ballpark Rd. Vanceleave. The South area includes 17 teams as follows: Brooklyn FFA, Forrest County Ag. High School, Gautier High School Team A, Gautier High School Team B, Gautier High School Team C, Greene County FFA Team A, Greene County FFA Team B, Hancock High School, Pascagoula

Academy Team D, Cleveland Central High School Team A, Cleveland Central High School Team B, Cleveland Central High School Team C, Cleveland Central High School Team D, Delta Academy Team A, Delta Academy Team B, Indianola Academy Team A, Indianola Academy Team B, Indianola Academy Team C, Indianola Academy Team D and Sharkey-Issaquena Academy.

The top five winning teams and the top FFA team from each area will compete at the State Envirothon on April 26, 2019, at the FFA Center in Raymond, MS.

The Mississippi Envirothon is funded through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality.

Sponsors include: Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts, Inc., Mississippi Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Mississippi Forestry Association, Chevron Pascagoula Refinery and Georgia-Pacific Monticello Plant.



Orlando Ellerby, Outreach Officer for the Mississippi Forestry Commission, teaches students about Forestry principles at the Central Area Envirothon Training on Feb. 27 in Raymond. PHOTO BY KATHY DOUGAN, MSWCC



Students at the Feb. 15 South Envirothon training workshop examine an alligator skin. PHOTO BY LAUREN WILSON, MSWCC

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Fond Farewell: Wilson retires after 32 years with MSWCC

Jeff Wilson, a Natural Resources Specialist for Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission for 32 years, retired from the Commission on Feb. 28. During his time with MSWCC, he worked as a field rep in all areas of the state except for the Northeast, he said.



JEFF WILSON

a lot of videos for MSWCC, including 319 projects, grazing land conservation, cogongrass, and tree planting, to name a few.

He has enjoyed his work with MSWCC, however, he

said his favorite part of the job is “all of the relationships I have built over the years with districts and partners,” adding, “I will still work with MSWCC by working with (MSWCC) partner organizations.”

Wilson has accepted a position as a soil conservationist with NRCS in Hinds County.

MSWCC provides update of Jasper Creek Watershed project

By Lee Smith

Environmental Administrator, MSWCC

Jasper Creek Watershed, located in the North Central portion of Union County, Mississippi, and the Southwestern portion of Tippah County, Mississippi, has been identified as a priority watershed by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Jasper Creek is listed on Mississippi's 2018 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for biological impairments.

The 19,657-acre watershed consists of 5,504 acres of pastureland, 5,504 acres of forestland, 7,863 acres of cropland and 786 acres other.

Joint efforts by the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation

Commission (MSWCC), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Tippah and Union County Soil and Water Conservation Districts resulted in a proposal and subsequent implementation of a project to significantly reduce the amount of non-point source pollutants entering Jasper Creek by demonstrating the effectiveness of selected Best Management Practices (BMPs).

The primary goals of the project have been:

- To improve water quality and protect high quality waters;*
- To reduce annual erosion to a*

minimum;

To apply BMPs to agricultural land in the demonstration project;

To inform and educate the public about BMPs that benefit water quality;

Although this project is scheduled to end June 30, work is still ongoing to further assist the landowners in this watershed.

For additional information about the project, contact the Tippah County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service at (662) 837-4464 ext. 3, or the Union County Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service at (662) 538-0030, ext. 3.

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Mississippi State, MS

www.mswcc.ms.gov



Mississippi Soil & Water
Conservation Commission
680 Monroe Street, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39202
Office: 601-354-7645
Fax: 601-354-6628
website: www.mswcc.ms.gov
Kathy Dougan, MSWCC
Public Relations Director
kdougan@mswcc.ms.gov

MSWCC announces implementation of 3 new non-point source pollution projects

The MS Soil and Water Conservation Commission is currently administering three new Non-point Source Grant programs in four Mississippi counties.

Through an agreement with the MS Department of Environmental Quality, MSWCC is implementing Best Management Practices within watersheds listed on the National 303-D list for impaired waterways, which are waterways that fail to meet one or more water quality standards.

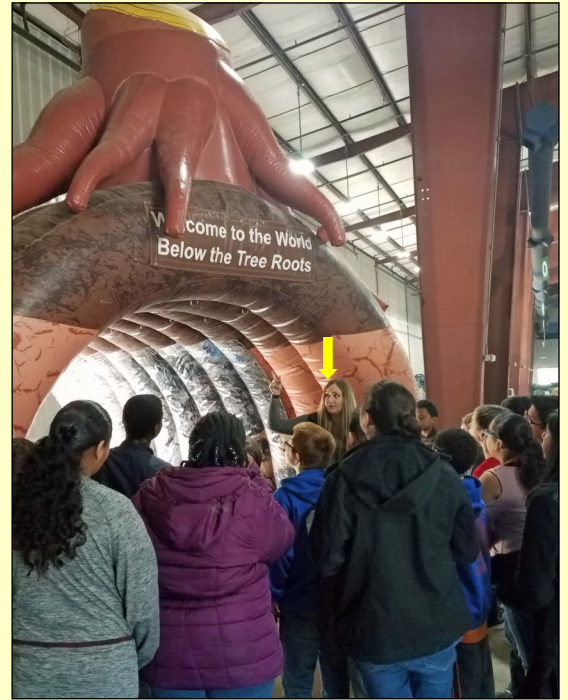
In partnership with the MDEQ's Basin Management branch, local branches of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Soil and Water Conservation districts, the new projects being implemented are Basket Creek-Hickahala Creek in Tate County; Sherman

Creek in Tallahatchie County; and Upper Little Bayou Pierre in Copiah and Claiborne counties.

Primary goals are:

- *To improve and protect water quality* by demonstrating economic benefits and effectiveness of selected BMP's;
- *To reduce annual erosion* to the greatest extent possible;
- *To apply BMP's to agricultural lands in the demonstration project area* to reach desired outcome of reduced runoff and sedimentation, and;
- *To inform and educate the public about BMPs* to benefit water quality.

Landowners within these project areas are encouraged to contact their local NRCS field office for more information.



Soil Tunnel Scavenger Hunt

MSWCC Field Rep Carlee Goode conducts a Soil Tunnel educational session at the Neshoba County Conservation Carnival. After the session, students went on a scavenger hunt by searching for information on the tunnel walls.

MDWFP and MSU to host pond Management workshop in Tate Co.

JACKSON - The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) Fisheries Bureau and the Mississippi State University Extension Service are hosting a pond management workshop in Tate County. The workshop will be held at the Tate County Extension Office located at One French's Alley, Senatobia, Mississippi on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will include topics on pond design, fish stocking, harvest, vegetation control, liming, and fertilizing, with Q and A to follow.

Those interested in attending the workshop are asked to register by calling the Tate County Extension Office at (662) 562-4274.

For more information regarding fishing in Mississippi, visit our website at www.mdwfp.com or call us at (601) 432-2212. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mdwfp or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MDWFPonline.



Franklin County Arbor Day

MSWCC Field Rep Lauren Wilson demonstrates how to plant a tree at Arbor Day in Franklin County.



MISSISSIPPI

Soil & Water
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YOUTH CAMP
JUNE 9-13, 2019 HINDS CC, RAYMOND

Contact your local SWCD for more information.
Registration deadline is April 24 for first-time campers;
May 1 for returning campers